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FAX: 919-542-3090**PHONE: 919-542-1963****FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET****TO:** *Attorney General John Ashcroft***FAX #:** *1-202-307-1454***FROM:** Dorothy Gration**DATE:** ~~11/29/00~~ *1/27/02***# PAGES (including cover sheet):***(2)***MESSAGE:***Attached*

1004 Fearrington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

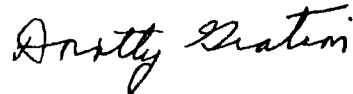
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my gratitude that this whole mess involving Microsoft and the federal government looks as though it may finally be coming to an end. I have never agreed with the federal government's pursuit of Microsoft and have long thought of it as a waste of taxpayer money, as well as an attempt to sully the reputation of someone who has lived the American dream. That being said, this settlement offers an opportunity for both parties to walk away satisfied and should be accepted/implemented as soon as possible.

The settlement agreement contains provisions that provide for increased competition, the fostering of innovation and greater accountability. The highlight of this agreement is Microsoft's agreement to share its most valued intellectual property in order to advance the industry.

This is a settlement that is three years too late and I strongly urge that it is implemented as soon as possible. Thank you for your efforts in Washington.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Gration